AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A coating material applying method for applying an image protecting coating material to a surface of a print, including the steps of:

applying said image protecting coating material to said surface of said print by spraying said image protecting coating material thereto from a plurality of droplet spray nozzles <u>while said print is moved relatively to said droplet spray nozzles</u>, said image protecting coating material being provided to protect an image on said print, wherein;

an area for image protecting coating material application is determined as a particular area on said print, said image protecting coating material being applied to said particular area by spraying said image protecting coating material selectively onto said particular area; ~~and~~

said plurality of droplet spray nozzles are arranged transversely of said print, said image protecting coating material being applied selectively to said particular area by spraying said image protecting coating material from <u>selected</u> droplet spray nozzles corresponding to said particular area among said plurality of droplet spray nozzles; <u>and</u>

~~wherein~~ said particular area is determined based on image data forming said image on said print<u>;</u>

<u>the method further including the steps of:</u>

<u>obtaining coating conditions for said particular area; and</u>

<u>converting the obtained coating conditions into control data for said selected droplet nozzles</u>.

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2. (Previously Presented) The coating material applying method as defined in claim 1, wherein said image protecting coating material is an ultraviolet-curable coating material, said image protecting coating material being cured by emitting ultraviolet light to said print after applying said image protecting coating material to said print.

3 - 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A coating material applying apparatus for applying an image protecting coating material to a surface of a print, comprising:

a plurality of droplet spray nozzles for spraying said image protecting coating material on said surface of said print to apply said image protecting coating material thereto, said image protecting coating material being provided to protect an image on said print;

moving means for moving said print relative to said droplet spray nozzles;

area determining means for determining an area for image protecting coating material application as a particular area on said print; ~~and~~

an instruction device for obtaining coating conditions for said particular area, wherein said area determining means is for converting said coating conditions into control data for said droplet spray nozzles; and

control means for selectively driving, based on said control data, ~~selecting~~ droplet spray nozzles corresponding to said particular area from among said plurality of droplet spray nozzles and causing said image protecting coating material to be sprayed from said droplet spray nozzles selected;

wherein said area determining means is arranged to determine said particular area based on image data forming said image on said print.

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7. (Previously Presented) The coating material applying apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein said image protecting coating material is an ultraviolet-curable coating material, said apparatus further comprising ultraviolet light emitting means for emitting ultraviolet light to said print after said droplet spray nozzles apply said image protecting coating material to said print.

8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A printing machine for performing printing based on image data, comprising:

a transport mechanism for transporting a print;

coating applying means including a plurality of droplet spray nozzles arranged perpendicular to a direction in which said print is transported by said transport mechanism, for spraying an image protecting coating material on said print <u>as said print is</u> transported, said image protecting coating material being provided to protect an image on said print;

area determining means for determining, based on said image data, an area for image protecting coating material application as a particular area on said print; ~~and~~

~~and~~

<u>an instruction device for obtaining coating conditions for said particular area, wherein said area determining means is for converting said coating conditions into control data for said droplet spray nozzles; and</u>

control means for <u>selectively driving, based on said control data,</u> ~~selecting~~ droplet spray nozzles corresponding to said particular area from among said plurality of droplet spray nozzles, and causing said image protecting coating material to be sprayed from said droplet spray nozzles selected;

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wherein said area determining means is arranged to recognize an image area on said print from said image data, and determine said particular area to coincide with said image area.

11. (Previously Presented) The printing machine as defined in claim 10, further comprising:

platemaking means for making printing plates based on said image data; and

printing means for performing printing by using said printing plates.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The printing machine as defined in claim 10, wherein said area determining means is arranged to determine said particular area as an area for image protecting coating material application on said print based on data inputted by an operator.

14. (Previously Presented) The printing machine as defined in claim 10, wherein said image protecting coating material is an ultraviolet-curable coating material, said printing machine further comprising ultraviolet light emitting means disposed downstream of said coating applying means with respect to said direction in which said print is transported, for emitting ultraviolet light to said print.

15 - 19 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating conditions comprise at least one of a droplet size and a number of droplets.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the coating conditions comprise at least one of a droplet size and a number of droplets.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the coating conditions comprise at least one of a droplet size and a number of droplets.